



NEWS RELEASE

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NEW EMERGENCY VEHICLE COMING TO CREIGHTON RFD #6 THANKS IN PART TO USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Creighton, Neb., July 29, 2005—The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development presented Creighton Rural Fire District (RFD) #6 with a \$6,000 symbolic check last night. Check is representative of the USDA funds to be leveraged with \$11,367 from Creighton RFD #6 to purchase a replacement fire grass rig. New vehicle will allow for greater response and handling of the area's topography in serving the near 2,700 households in the rural fire district.

"The purchase of the new grass rig was made possible by the joint efforts of the USDA Rural Development, Creighton Volunteer Fire Department, and the Creighton Rural Fire Board," stated Joe Mathine, chairperson of Creighton RFD #6.

Creighton RFD #6 will procure a 2005 pickup to haul their existing grass rig tank. The RFD's current grass rig chassis is 30 years old with over 125,000 miles and has proven unreliable in emergency situations. The RFD covers over 240 square miles, some of which, is rugged terrain, maximizing the need for trustworthy equipment. Vehicle will also be used for storm spotting, accidents, mutual aid traffic control, fires, and floods.

"Rural communities need dependable emergency equipment to protect lives and property," stated Jolene Kasper, community programs specialist for USDA Rural Development. "USDA Rural Development is pleased to be able to assist Creighton Rural Fire District #6 with their new vehicle which will bring greater protection services to those it serves."

USDA Rural Development's Community Facility Grant program provided the USDA grant. For additional information contact Jolene Kasper, phone (402) 371-5350, (402) 437-5093 (TDY); jolene.kasper@ne.usda.gov; 1909 Vicki Lane, Suite 103, Norfolk, Neb. 68701. Visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/ne/>.

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